

Non-Master List Cecil County

In the early 1900s, the western portion of the site was used as a clay quarry.

During the World War II era, munitions and scrap rubber were disposed of on site.

In 1956, the New Jersey Fireworks Company purchased the property for use as disposal area for "Class C" fireworks.

In 1976, New Jersey Fireworks was found to be in violation of illegal dumping.

In 1980, an Administrative Order was issued by DHMH to close out on-site disposal area.

In 1983, the NUS Corporation conducted on-site sampling and detected elevated levels of barium in an on-site pond.

In 1988, the New Jersey Fireworks Company was identified as a hazardous waste generator.

In 1992, the MDE conducted a Level I Site Inspection Prioritization of the Route 7 Dump Site (part of New Jersey Fireworks). The site was assessed a "NFRAP" status at this time.

In 1999, the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Bureau and MDE identified multiple safety and hazardous waste violations at the site.

In 2000, a Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation including sampling, was conducted. The report is being drafted and will undergo a toxicological review.

NEW JERSEY FIREWORKS SITE Elkton, Maryland

Site Location

The New Jersey Fireworks site is located approximately 2.4 miles west of Elkton and 2.5 miles east of the town of North East at 1726 Old Philadelphia Road in Cecil County, Maryland. The site consists of 2 parcels that comprise approximately 46.5 acres and is situated in a rural setting just north of the Elk Neck State Forest. Old Philadelphia Road (Route 7) forms the northern border of the site. Forest View Village Trailer Park borders the site to the east, Mill Creek and Amtrak railroad tracks form the western and southern borders of the site. The home of the Bello family is situated topographically upgradient and is located on a parcel at 1720 Old Philadelphia Road that pinches into the site near the midpoint of the property.

Included as part of the New Jersey Fireworks property is the Route 7 Dump Site (MD-075) located to the west of the property. The Route 7 Dump Site consists of an approximately 2-acre, unpermitted disposal area.

Site History

Past activities at the New Jersey Fireworks site include the following: In the early 1900s, the extreme western portion of the site was utilized as a clay quarry which supplied a brick manufacturer. During the World War II period, by-products of munitions production, as well as scrap rubber from the Bayshore Rubber Plant, were disposed of in the former 2-acre clay quarry. In 1956, the New Jersey Fireworks Company purchased the property to manufacture "Class C" fireworks. Manufacturing occurred on the eastern portions of the property, while waste from the production of fireworks took place in a pond formerly used as a clay quarry

located at the western portion of the property. In 1983, the Maryland State Highway Administration also used the on-site pond to dispose of fill dirt from road construction.

Environmental Investigations

According to Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) file records, the New Jersey Fireworks site was found to be in violation of illegal dumping in 1976. In November 1980, an Administrative Order was issued to the company by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). The Order required that New Jersey Fireworks close out the disposal area while protecting human health and the environment.

In 1980, the Ecology and Environment Company and the DHMH conducted an inspection of the on-site pond that was a former clay quarry known as the Route 7 Dump Site (MD-075). Reportedly, samples collected from an on-site pond revealed some contamination. No other details were given other than the contamination had not migrated off site.

In 1983, the NUS Corporation conducted a Site Inspection that focused on the Route 7 Dump Site, during which samples were collected from an adjacent stream. Elevated concentrations of barium were detected at 19,300 µg/l in an on-site pond sample. Trace amounts of cadmium, cobalt and chromium were also detected.

In 1988, the New Jersey Fireworks Company was identified by the MDE as a hazardous waste generator and was subject to regulations set forth by the Hazardous Waste Enforcement Division of the MDE. The area near the sparkler manufacturing building was of primary concern, as concentrations of barium in the soil reached 63,000 mg/kg. Later that year, a Consent Order was issued by MDE to ensure the proper handling and disposal of hazardous and solid waste at the facility. Inspections by Hazardous Waste Enforcement Division personnel continue to occur at the New Jersey Fireworks site on a regular basis.

In 1992, the MDE Site Assessment/Pre-Remedial Division conducted a Level I Site Inspection Prioritization on the Route 7 Dump Site. Using existing analytical data, the site was evaluated and recommended for a "No Further Remedial Action Planned" (NFRAP) status under CERCLA. No additional samples were collected at this time.

In 1999, the New Jersey Fireworks site was inspected by the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and the MDE. The inspection revealed that large amounts of fireworks were being stored in an unsafe manner. According to representatives of the ATF, the on-site manufacturing of fireworks ceased approximately seven to eight years ago. The types of fireworks previously manufactured include sparklers and black powder explosives. The property is now used to repackage imported fireworks.

The 1999 ATF/MDE inspection also revealed that several buildings on site contained old fireworks. Many of these buildings were in poor condition. Several pit-like depressions were located in a wooded area and were previously used for the burning and disposal of old fireworks. Rusted thirty-gallon and fifty-gallon drums litter the site. Some of the drums still possess legible labels indicating that they contained potassium perchlorate. Lastly, a waste disposal area is located on the south side of the New Jersey Fireworks property. This waste disposal area consisted of wooden pallets, drums, aerosol cans, oil containers, auto parts, cinders and other scattered debris, some of which looked like asbestos material.

Current Status

The MDE conducted a Site Investigation of the New Jersey Fireworks site in April 2000. The Site Investigation report is being drafted and will undergo a toxicological evaluation.

Contact

Art O'Connell

Maryland Department of the Environment
Site and Brownfields Assessments/State Superfund
Division

(410)-537-3493